

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /094 W
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R 040815Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3884

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SS, MR

SUBJECT: GIRM STATEMENT ON SPANISH SAHARA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1073

1. JUNE 2ND EDITION OF NOUAKCHOTT INFORMATION, GOVERNMENT NEWSHEET, CARRIED GIRM'S OFFICIAL REACTION TO SPAIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENT TO DECOLONIZE THE SPANISH SAHARA. MAURITANIAN POLICY ON THIS QUESTION WAS PRESENTED IN THE FORM OF A "DECLARATION" BY THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA, AFTER CAREFULLY CONSIDERING THE MAY 23, 1975 DECLARATION OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, WELCOMES, WITH SATISFACTION, THE EXPRESSED INTENTION BY SPAIN TO DE-COLONIZE THE MAURITANIAN TERRITORY OF THE SAHARA WITHOUT DELAY.

3. THIS WISH OF SPAIN TO DECOLONIZE THE SAHARA, WHILE
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VERY LOGICAL FOR THE GENERAL PROCESS OF LIBERATION, RESPONDS

PERFECTLY TO THE WISHES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MAURITANIA WHICH HAVE FREQUENTLY ASKED SPAIN TO PROCEED RAPIDLY WITH SUCH A DECOLONIZATION.

4. THE INITIATIVE OF SPAIN IS, THEREFORE, THE ACTIVE COMMITMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN, WHICH IS NOT SEEKING TO CLING TO AN ALREADY ANACHONISTIC SITUATION, TO LEAVE THE TERRITORY.

5. IF THIS DECOLONIZATION WERE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN, ACCORDING TO PRECEPTS ALREADY AGREED UPON WHICH WERE THE RESULT OF CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE PARTIES DIRECTLY INTERESTED, IT WOULD, WITHOUT DOUBT, CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTAINING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION AND WOULD BE IN THE NATURE OF PRESERVING THE ANCIENT FRIENDSHIP AND TIES WHICH UNITE THIS REGION WITH SPAIN. IF, ON THE CONTRARY, IT (DECOLONIZATION) WERE THE RESULT OF A UNILATERAL DECISION BY SPAIN NOT TO LIVE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, IN SPITE OF THE PROMISES THAT IT MADE BEFORE THE UN, CONFUSION WOULD BE CREATED AND PEACE AND STABILITY COMPROMISED.

6. THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITANIA, THEREFORE, REQUESTS SPAIN TO FACE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH FLOW FROM THE DECISIONS OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND NOT ACT ACCORDING TO A PLAN WHICH IT (SPAIN) WISHES TO IMPOSE. IN ANY CASE, WHATEVER THE FINAL DECISION OF SPAIN MAY BE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA WILL DO ALL THAT IS NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD ITS (MAURITANIA'S) LEGITIMATE RIGHTS IN THE MAURITANIAN SAHARA. END TEXT.

7. WE ASSUME THIS "DECLARATION" FOLLOWS CLOSELY THE LETTER GIRM FORWARDED TO THE SYG OF THE UN (REFTEL). HANDYSIDE

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